

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 178

Introduced by Assembly Member Beth Gaines

January 24, 2013

An act to amend Section 101.7 of the Streets and Highways Code, relating to highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 178, as introduced, Beth Gaines. Highways: exit information signs.

Existing law requires the Department of Transportation to adopt rules and regulations that allow the placement, near exits on freeways in rural areas, of information signs identifying specific roadside businesses. Existing law prohibits the department from approving the placement of any sign within any urban area with a population of 5,000 or more.

This bill would require the department to allow the placement of information signs within an urban area with a population of 50,000 or less if the urban area has had a highway bypass completed since 2002.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 101.7 of the Streets and Highways Code
2 is amended to read:

3 101.7. (a) The department shall adopt rules and regulations
4 that allow the placement, near exits on freeways located in rural
5 areas, of information signs identifying specific roadside businesses
6 offering fuel, food, lodging, camping services, approved 24-hour

1 pharmacy services, or approved attractions, and that prescribe the
2 standards for those signs.

3 (b) The department shall provide equal access to all business
4 applicants.

5 (c) ~~The~~ (1) (A) *Except as provided in paragraph (2), the*
6 *department shall not approve the placement of any a sign within*
7 *any an urban area designated by the United States Bureau of the*
8 *Census as having a population of 5,000 or more.*

9 The

10 (B) *The department may not remove an information sign that*
11 *was placed before January 1, 2003, due solely to population growth*
12 *in an urban area that results in a population of 5,000 or more but*
13 *less than 10,000.*

14 (2) *Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the department shall allow*
15 *the placement of information signs within an urban area designated*
16 *by the United States Bureau of the Census as having a population*
17 *of 50,000 or less if the urban area has had a highway bypass*
18 *completed since 2002.*

19 (d) The information signs may be placed near the freeway exits
20 in addition to, or in lieu of, other highway signs of the department,
21 but not in lieu of on-premises or off-premises highway oriented
22 business signs and directional signs.

23 (e) The department shall establish and charge a fee to place and
24 maintain information signs in an amount not less than 25 percent
25 above its estimated cost in placing and maintaining the information
26 signs. The department shall annually review the amount of that
27 fee and revise it as necessary. Funds derived from the imposition
28 of the fee, after deduction of the cost to the department for the
29 placement and maintenance of the information signs, shall be
30 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for safety roadside
31 rest purposes.

32 (f) The department shall incorporate the use of an “RV-friendly”
33 symbol on an information sign placed pursuant to subdivision (a)
34 for a specific roadside business that meets criteria of the department
35 regarding sufficiency for recreational vehicles with respect to the
36 parking spaces and surfaces, vertical clearance, turning radius, and
37 entrances and exits of the facility. A specific roadside business
38 otherwise qualified for a sign pursuant to subdivision (a) may
39 qualify for and request an “RV-friendly” symbol for that sign. The
40 department shall adopt rules and regulations for an “RV-friendly”

1 symbol consistent with this section as well as the Federal Highway
2 Administration's Interim Approval for Addition of RV-friendly
3 Symbol to Specific Service Signs. The rules and regulations
4 adopted by the department shall include a provision for the roadside
5 business to acknowledge that overnight occupancy is not permitted
6 unless the roadside business is licensed as a special occupancy
7 park as defined in Section 18862.43 of the Health and Safety Code.
8 The department shall establish and charge an additional fee
9 pursuant to subdivision (e) to place and maintain the symbol.
10 (g) The department shall develop rules and regulations governing
11 signs for approved attractions, which shall include amusement
12 parks, botanical and zoological facilities, business districts and
13 main street communities, education centers, golf courses, historical
14 sites, museums, religious sites, resorts, ski areas, marinas, "u-pick"
15 farms and orchards, farmers' markets, and wineries, viticulture
16 areas, and vineyards.